Alberta Economy

Indicators at a Glance

Real GDP by Expenditure

In 2013, Alberta's real GDP grew by 3.8%, the third-strongest growth rate among the provinces and the fourth consecutive year of robust growth. Nationally, real GDP rose 2.0% in 2013, a slight improvement over 2012.

Population

Alberta's population was 4,160,044, as of January 1st, 2015. This was an increase of 2.5% the year prior. Nationally, population grew 1.0% from a year ago.

Migration

Net migration to Alberta was 6,530 in the fourth quarter of 2014. Alberta welcomed 2,352 international migrants and 4,178 interprovincial migrants.

Employment[1]

Alberta lost 14,000 jobs in February, more than erasing the gains in January. Employment grew by 1.6% year-over-year. Alberta has added 36,700 jobs over the last twelve months.

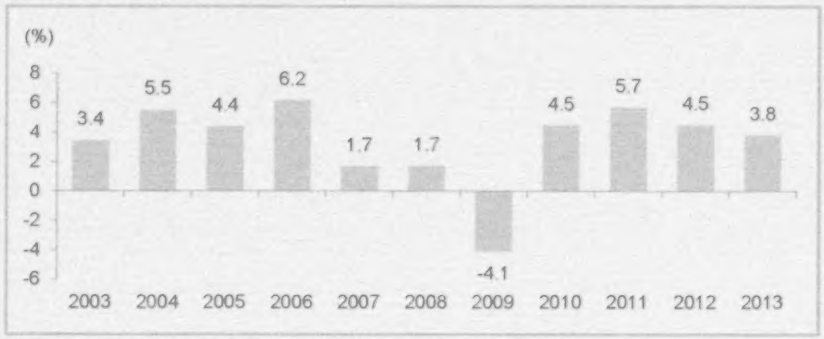
Unemployment[1]

Alberta's unemployment surged to 5.3%, 0.8 percentage points higher than January, as the labour force expanded while jobs declined. Alberta has the second lowest unemployment rate among the provinces.

Rigs Drilling

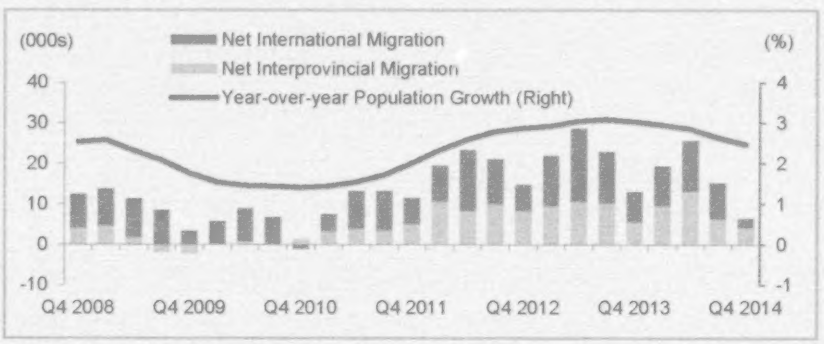
The average number of active rigs in Alberta was 211 in February, a 47.7% decrease from February 2014 and the lowest number of active rigs for the month of February since 1993.

Real GDP by Expenditure
Annual, % change



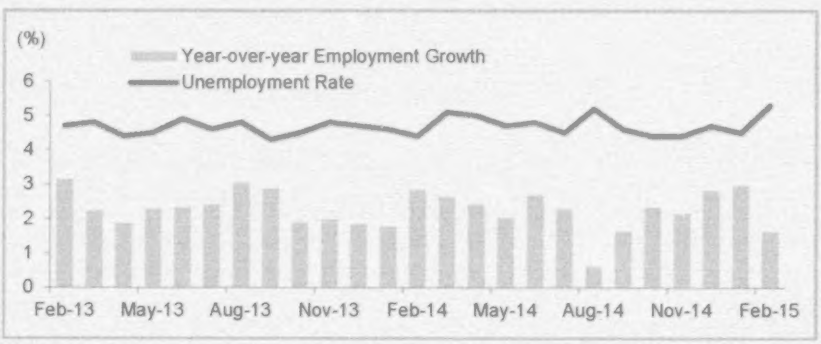
Source: Statistics Canada

Demographics
Quarterly



Source: Statistics Canada

Labour Market
Monthly



Source: Statistics Canada

Inflation

Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation was 0.9% in February, 0.1 percentage point higher than January. CPI inflation excluding food and energy was 2.2%.

Average Weekly Earnings[1]

Average Weekly Earnings (AWE) were $1,163 in December, an increase of 2.0% y/y, the lowest year-over-year growth rate of 2014. Nationally, average weekly earnings also increased by 2.0% y/y to $943.

Retail Sales[1]

Retail sales were $6.3 billion in January, down for the fourth-straight month. Year-over-year, retail sales were down 2.3% on lower gas station and motor vehicle sales.

Housing Starts

The number of Alberta housing starts in February was 44,400 (annualized), 25% more than in February 2014. Edmonton starts were responsible for the strength with 24,500 new homes started. Calgary had 9,500.

New Housing Price Index

The New Housing Price Index in Alberta increased 2.9% y/y in January, with Calgary's index increasing 5.1% y/y, while Edmonton's was up 0.7% y/y.

Building Permits[1]

The total value of building permits issued in Alberta fell 27% to $1.3 billion in January, the largest monthly fall since March 2011. Year-over-year growth in building permits fell 27%, the lowest since October 2010.

[1] Seasonally adjusted

Contact

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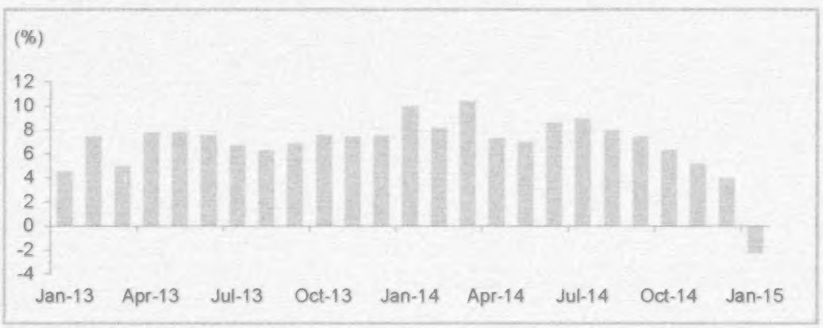
Inflation and Earnings
Monthly, CPI and AWE, year-over-year % change

Source: Statistics Canada

Retail Sales
Monthly, year-over-year % change



Source: Statistics Canada

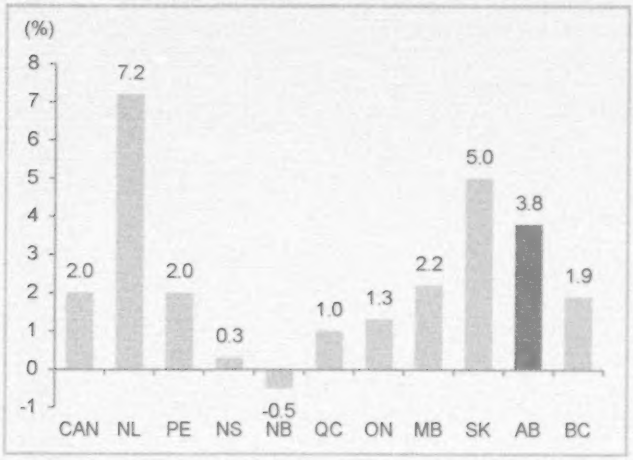
Housing Market
Monthly

Source: Statistics Canada

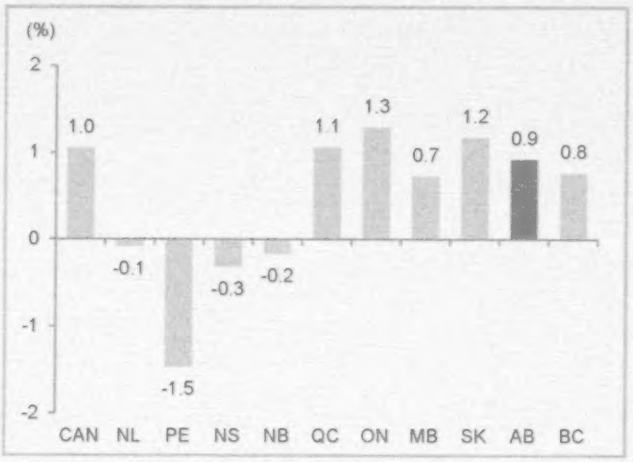
	Canadian Dollar (USc/$CAN)	WTI Oil ($US/bbl)	NYMEX Natural Gas ($US/MMBtu)	Alberta Reference Price ($C/GJ)
Latest (March 26, 2015)	80.19	51.43	2.67	2.83 (January)
Fiscal year-to-date	88.01	81.18	3.82	3.71

Please see the *Weekly Economic Review* for current analysis on the Alberta economy.

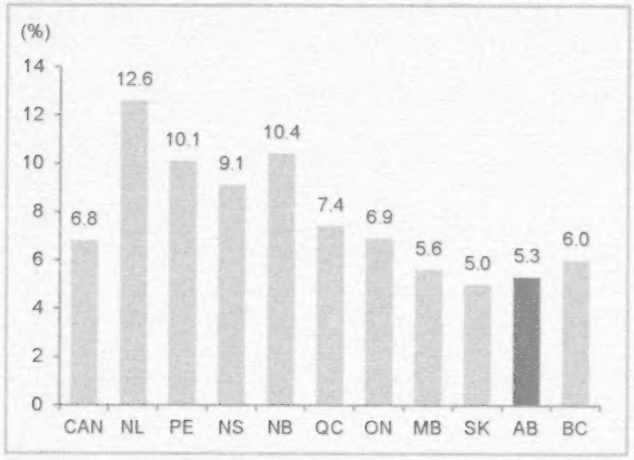
Real GDP by Expenditure (Market Prices)
(2013, year-over-year growth)



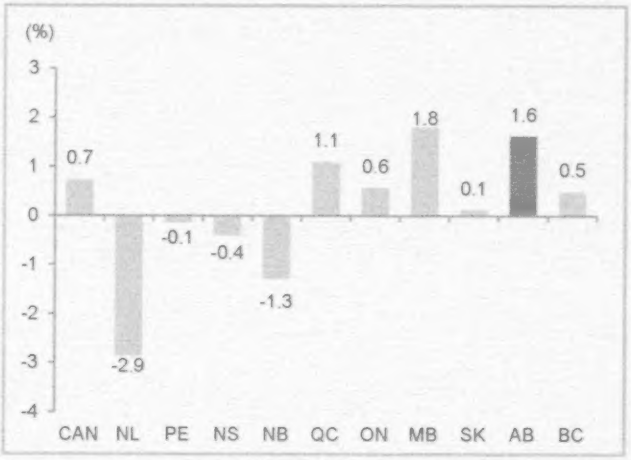
CPI Inflation
(February 2015, year-over-year growth)



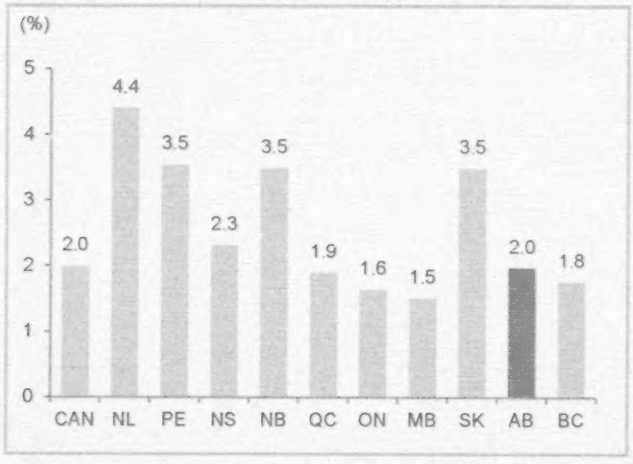
Unemployment Rate
(February 2015)



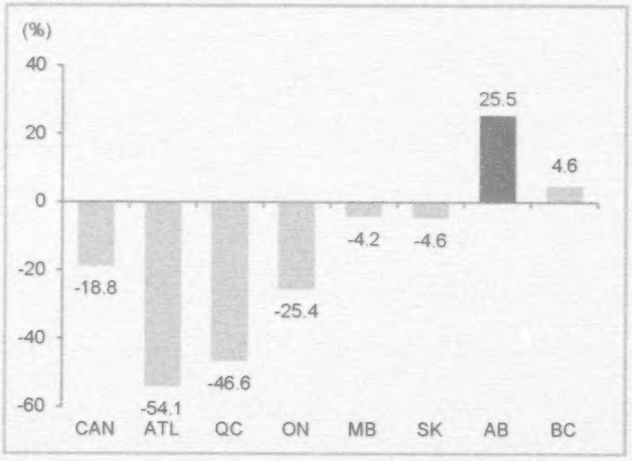
Employment
(February 2015, year-over-year growth)



Average Weekly Earnings
(December 2014, year-over-year growth)



Housing Starts
(February 2015, SAAR, year-over-year growth)



Alberta Economic Indicators

Population[1]	2013	2014	2015YTD	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15
Population (thousands)	4,067	4,122	4,160		4,146			4,160	
y/y % change	3.0	2.9	2.5		2.6			2.5	
Net interprovincial Migration	38,598	38,717	10,498		6,320			4,178	
Net International Migration	48,116	42,478	11,203		8,851			2,352	
Labour Market									
Employment (thousands, SA)	2,226	2,275	2,307	2,264	2,291	2,292	2,300	2,314	2,300
m/m change (thousands)				22.3	6.8	0.8	8.4	13.7	-14.0
y/y % change	2.5	2.2	2.3	1.6	2.3	2.1	2.8	3.0	1.6
Unemployment Rate (%, SA)	4.6	4.7	4.9	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.7	4.5	5.3
Participation Rate (%, SA)	73.1	72.7	73.0	72.5	72.5	72.4	72.8	72.9	73.0
Average Weekly Earnings ($, SA)	1,108.01	1,149.42		1,152.65	1,165.89	1,158.63	1,163.01		
y/y % change	3.5	3.8		3.7	3.8	2.5	2.0		
Household Sector									
Retail Sales ($ million, SA)	73,109	76,701	6,259	6,696	6,661	6,624	6,456	6,259	
y/y % change	6.9	7.6	2.3	7.5	6.6	5.6	4.2	2.3	
New Vehicle Sales (units, thousands)	263	277	16	27	24	21	20	16	
y/y % change	6.2	5.3	-0.7	16.2	6.8	4.6	5.7	-0.7	
Consumer Price Index (y/y % change)	1.4	2.6	0.9	2.6	3.0	2.0	1.9	0.8	0.9
Excluding Food & Energy	1.4	2.4	2.1	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.0	2.2
Housing Starts (SAAR, 000's)	36.0	40.6	44.6	47.1	41.2	39.1	35.1	44.8	44.4
y/y % change	7.8	12.7	19.3	48.6	9.1	-10.6	-2.6	13.7	25.5
New Housing Price Index (y/y % change)	2.8	3.4	3	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	2.9	
Resale Home Sales	66,085	71,781	8,401	6,214	6,387	6,281	5,001	4,225	4,176
y/y % change	9.5	8.6	-23.7	5.9	10.3	8.4	-5.6	-23.0	-24.3
Sales to New Listing Ratio	0.64	0.65	0.43	0.70	0.67	0.65	0.50	0.41	0.44
MLS Average Resale Prices ($ thousands)	390	400	386	402	405	408	399	390	382
y/y % change	5.0	5.2	93.8	5.0	6.1	5.6	2.7	-2.1	-4.5
Consumer Bankruptcies (level)	4,689	3,859		313	339	292	262		
y/y % change	-18.6	-17.7		-16.5	-11.5	-9.6	-7.7		
Business Sector									
Goods Exports (customs based,$ million)	103,007	121,449	8953	10,715	10,720	9,126	10,363	8,953	
y/y % change	8.4	17.9	-16.0	26.0	11.2	4.8	15.0	-16.0	
Energy Products ($ million)	75,700	91,308	6371	8,152	8,033	6,605	7,934	6,371	
y/y% change	11.6	20.6	-23.9	28.8	11.0	2.7	16.9	-23.9	
Agricultural Products ($ million)	6,184	6,454	508	487	532	515	428	508	
y/y % change	-9.0	4.4	6.5	16.2	-13.1	10.3	-17.6	6.5	
Rigs Drilling	235	252	211	278	265	266	253	272	211
y/y% change	-5.9	7.4	-39.3	10.9	11.1	14.3	-2.1	-30.8	-47.7
Manufacturing Shipments ($ million)	73,793	79,447	5,891	6,715	6,747	6,477	6,427	5,891	
y/y% change	3.0	7.7	-8.5	9.1	7.3	1.3	3.9	-8.5	
Wholesale Trade ($ million)	78,605	84,521	7,130	7,167	7,156	7,148	7,167	7,130	
y/y% change	2.3	7.5	5.6	9.1	6.9	6.8	9.4	5.6	
Building Permits ($ million, SA)	17,262	18,256	1268	1,451	1,570	1,314	1,742	1,268	
y/y% change	17.7	5.8	-27.0	-0.1	7.9	-5.8	25.2	-27.0	
Residential Permits ($ million, SA)	9,859	10,831	915	908	964	851	943	915	
y/y % change	19.0	9.9	-22.7	2.6	6.5	-2.4	11.5	-22.7	
Non-Residential Permits ($ million, SA)	7,403	7,426	354	543	605	463	799	354	
y/y % change	16.1	0.3	-36.1	4.5	10.0	-11.4	46.5	-36.1	
Non-Res. Building Cons. Price Index[2] (y/y % change)	1.2	1.6		1.5			1.1		
Business Bankruptcies	137	105		5	14	10	9		
y/y % change	-40.4	-23.4		-61.5	-6.7	-25.0	-35.7		

[1] Quarterly; annual numbers are presented on a census year basis (July 1– June 30)

[2] Quarterly, average of Calgary and Edmonton

YTD YTD (year-to-date). "SA" denotes seasonally adjusted. "SAAR" denotes seasonally adjusted at annual rate

Sources: All data are from Statistics Canada except Housing Starts (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), MLS Average Resale Prices (Canada Real Estate Association), Rigs Drilling (Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors) and Bankruptcies (office of the superintendent of Bankruptcy

All historical data are subject to revision